

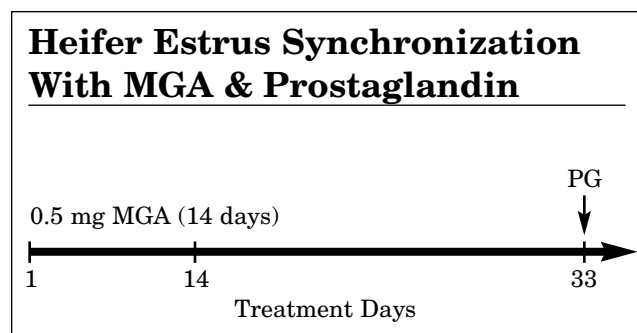


MGA + Prostaglandin To Synchronize Estrus In Heifers

Estrus synchronization is a popular tool used by beef producers to enhance reproductive performance. Several sophisticated systems have evolved over the years; however, the most “time honored” method used in heifers involves a combination of MGA (melengestrol acetate) and prostaglandin (PG).

The MGA + PG system is easy to implement, results in a high estrus or cycling response, groups calving within a relatively short window, and induces “borderline” heifers to cycle.

This method is as follows:



1. Feed 0.5 mg of MGA per head per day for 14 days. Make sure there is adequate bunk space for all heifers to eat and that the MGA is mixed well in the diet. Feeding one-half lb per head of **Vigortone's MGA 2000 PELLET** works well in this scenario. A premix containing MGA can also be used effectively.
2. It is also a good idea to concentrate the diet a little to make sure all heifers get the proper dose of MGA.
3. After 14 days, discontinue the MGA and continue the regular diet.
4. Ignore any riding or estrus activity after removing the MGA as this is most likely an infertile cycle.

5. Inject prostaglandin 17 to 19 days after removal of MGA. Researchers have found a better response injecting PG at 19 versus 17 days. Best results have also been found using an 18-gauge 1½ inch needle and injecting deep into the muscle.
6. Within 48 to 72 hours there should be significant estrus activity. This should be a very fertile heat cycle and the time to breed.
 - a) Up to 20% of heifers won't respond to the Day 19 PG injections. Therefore, many producers will reinject these nonresponders 11 days after the first PG injection and get an excellent heat response. This is done after giving all females about 6 days to respond to the first PG injection.

Although excellent results are obtained with this program, there are some drawbacks.

- The producer needs to plan ahead and allocate a total of 33 days to make this concept work.
- There can be an increase in the rate of twinning which is undesirable from a management standpoint.
- Getting the proper dose of MGA can be difficult.

Response to the program depends on how well heifers were developed and if they have reached a proper breeding age weight. **Heifers reared on a quality Vigortone mineral program have greater fertility and thus more success in synchronization programs such as this.**